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Department of State
TELEGRAM

POL 13-2

INDICATE:

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E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

~~ACTION~~

GDS

PINS, BR

Cardinal Arns Reports New Student Arrests

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC
Amembassy BRASILIA

INFO:

Amconsul RIO DE JANEIRO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SAO PAULO 1228

1. At the June 6 Consular Society lunch honoring Cardinal Arns, he confided at some length about the current student last situation. He said that a new wave of arrests had begun/Friday night at University of São Paulo, beginning in the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism and moving to Faculty of Philosophy where a dozen had been arrested. They had been placed in solitary confinement and tortured. The Cardinal said that General D'Avila Mello, Commander of the II Army, had requested an appointment with him today, June 6, ostensibly to discuss immorality in Brazilian magazines. The

Contents and Classification

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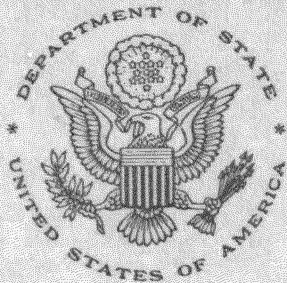
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By: Amanda Weimer Date: 05-19-2014



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Cardinal did not believe that was the subject at all. The Cardinal said he had been unable to see the General and had suggested an appointment June 7. General D^oAvila Mello in turn had said he would be preoccupied with the visit of General Humberto, former commander of the II Army who is coming here for a round of celebrations in his honor. The Cardinal, who never got along with Humberto, refused to see D^oAvila Mello in Humberto's presence.

2. The Cardinal said that he had called General Golbery yesterday about the student arrests and the latter said he was powerless to do anything about the matter. "We need a new Esquadrão da Morte to take care of Fleury", the Cardinal quoted General Golbery as saying. This line ties in with what Governor-designate Paulo Egydio Martins told me Tuesday: that there is a strong, hard-line element in the Brazilian "system" which is maintaining repression of the

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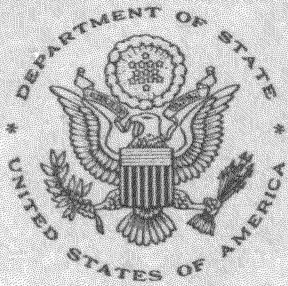
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student movement, torture and censorship.

3. The Cardinal nevertheless said he was fundamentally optimistic about the future, although the present facts did not support such a belief. He implied, as had Paulo Egydio Martins, earlier this week, a basic faith in the Geisel government. He took some comfort from the recent releases of prisoners by the departing commander of the IVth Army.

4. The Cardinal said all prisoners had not been released and slipped me a small piece of paper with 9 names of persons who had 'disappeared', saying that he hoped it would not take away my appetite. The names are: João Massena Melo; Fernando Santa Cruz Oliveira; Eduardo Collier; José Romano; David Capistrano; Luiz Maranhão; Ana Rosa (sic) Kerciunski; ~~h/h~~/Paulo Stewart/Wright, and Issanias Okamo.

5. COMMENT: Some of the names listed were mentioned in a New York Times article of May 30 on political prisoners

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in Brazil. Paulo Stuart Wright, a son of American missionaries in Brazil and a former Santa Catarina state deputy, disappeared in São Paulo in early September 1973, reportedly having been arrested by security authorities. His whereabouts have been the subject of previous telegraphic exchanges between Department and Brasilia. According to a manifesto issued by the "Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners in Brazil", Collier, a law school student, was arrested prior to April 6, 1974. [REDACTED] Collier (as was Wright), was a member of Acao Popular. Capistrano is a well-known PCB member.

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